



File Code: 2720

Date: December 10, 2015

Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested

Dear Prospectus Applicant:

The Juneau Ranger District has completed its review of the bid packages submitted in response to the 2015 Prospectus for Outfitter, Guide & Transport Services at the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area. I appreciate the time and effort each applicant put in to applying for this opportunity. A total of nineteen bid packages were received by the deadline. One package was dropped from consideration as the cost recovery agreement was not fully executed. We have met our goal of selecting applicants that best serve the public and meet the needs of the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area.

A four person panel comprised of two district staff, one regional staff member and one out of state Forest Service specialist was tasked with reviewing the bid packages. Panel members evaluated application materials, responses to selection criteria and any records of performance/evaluation on file with the Forest Service. Recommendations were then provided to me for the final decision.

Of the 238,732 service days offered in the prospectus, applicants requested 2½ times that amount in their bid packages (639,738) making selection of successful applicants challenging (see Attachments B & C). In the Visitor Center Unit alone, the requested use by transporters (535,360) was 3½ times the available capacity (157,179).

Several factors contributed to the final allocation decisions. I took into account bid package degree of completion, quality of responses to selection criteria, past performance records and evaluations, feasibility of proposals and types of services provided.

I have decided to award the service days from the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area prospectus as illustrated on the enclosed ATTACHMENT A - SERVICE DAYS AWARDED PER COMPANY - 2015 MGRA Prospectus.

- In many cases the top scoring applicants received the majority, if not all, service days they requested with lower scoring companies receiving any balance of service days. Exceptions to this include:
 - For Mendenhall Lake we chose to diversify the tour opportunities on the lake.
 - For Trail of Time, we wanted to allow for an additional hiking company to conduct tours on that trail.



- The Visitor Center Unit was the most challenging as demand greatly exceeded capacity by 3½ times. The capacity in this unit was not increased in the 2014 MGRA Management Plan Revision and most of the available capacity in this unit resulted from expiring permits held by Juneau Tours, M&M Tours and Alaska Coach Tours. These three companies have good operating records and acceptable evaluations with the Forest Service. I wanted to recognize their good performance while also awarding some use to the top two scoring companies and addressing some public needs that would otherwise have gone unfulfilled.

Successful bidders will be contacted by their assigned Permit Administrator prior to the end of the year to discuss the special use permits that will be issued as follows:

- Applicants with existing special use permits on the Tongass National Forest will receive a permit amendment.
- Applicants who are not currently authorized to provide outfitter, guide, or transporter services on the Tongass National Forest will be issued 2-year *transitional* priority use permits. Satisfactory performance at the completion of the initial 2-year period may result in an extension to complete the 5 years. Issuance of priority use permits is at the sole discretion of the authorized officer.

If your company is unable to accept the service days allocated to you or you are no longer interested in this prospectus award, please contact our office so those days can be redistributed to other permittees.

We will continue to monitor activities and ensure that permittees comply with the terms and conditions of their permits. Should a holder cease operations, or if a permit is terminated or revoked for any reason, existing holders will be eligible to apply for additional service days in proportion to the original reward for the remainder of the prospectus term.

This decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to 36 CFR 214. A solicited applicant directly affected by an appealable decision has the right to appeal this decision. A Notice of Appeal, including any attachments, must meet the appeal content regulations at 36 CFR 214.8 and must be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer within 45 days of the date of this decision:

M. Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor
Tongass National Forest
648 Mission St
Ketchikan, AK 99901-6591
Fax: 907-228-6215
Email: appeals-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us

36 CFR 214.8 Appeal Content

(a) *General requirements for the contents of an appeal.* All appeals must include:

- (1) The appellant's name, mailing address, daytime telephone number, and email address, if any;
- (2) A brief description of the decision being appealed, including the name and title of the Responsible Official and the date of the decision;
- (3) The title or type and, if applicable, identification number for the written authorization and the date of application for or issuance of the written authorization, if applicable;
- (4) A statement of how the appellant is adversely affected by the decision being appealed;
- (5) A statement of the relevant facts underlying the decision being appealed;
- (6) A discussion of issues raised by the decision being appealed, including identification of any laws, regulations, or policies that were allegedly violated in reaching the decision being appealed;
- (7) A statement as to whether and how the appellant has attempted to resolve the issues under appeal with the Responsible Official and the date and outcome of those efforts;
- (8) A statement of the relief sought;
- (9) Any documents and other information upon which the appellant relies; and
- (10) The appellant's signature and the date.

(b) *Specific requirements for the contents of an appeal.* In addition to the general requirements in §214.8(a), the following specific requirements must be included in an appeal, where applicable:

- (1) A request for an oral presentation under §214.16;
- (2) A request for a stay under §214.13; and
- (3) A request to participate in a state mediation program regarding certain term grazing permit disputes under 36 CFR part 222, subpart B.

I appreciate your interest in providing outfitting, guiding or transport services at the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area. If you have questions, or would like to meet to discuss any issues related to this decision, please contact Special Uses Staff Officer Jennifer Berger, at 907-789-6278, jberger@fs.fed.us or Permit Administrator Jessie Schalkowski, at 907-789-6279, jlschalkowski@fs.fed.us. They will assist in coordinating any meetings with me.

Sincerely,



BRAD ORR
District Ranger

ATTACHMENT A - SERVICE DAYS AWARDED PER COMPANY - 2015 MGRA Prospectus

BUSINESS NAME	SDs authorized through prospectus award	WEST GLACIER UNIT GENERAL FS LANDS (rock pen., shoreline, etc.)	WEST GLACIER TRL	MENDENHALL LAKE	POWERLINE TRAIL	STEEL CREEK TRAIL	MORaine ECOLOGY TRAIL	TRAIL OF TIME	EAST GLACIER TRAIL	NUGGET FALLS TRAIL	VISITOR CENTER UNIT
12TH STREET TAXI & TOURS (D. HARRIS)	1840										1840 transport
ABOVE & BEYOND ALASKA LLC	10446	4450	1800	4096							100 guided
ADMIRALTY EXCURSIONS	199									199	
ADVENTURE FLOW	3082		1215					834		1033	
ALASKA COACH TOURS	45020										45020 transport
ALASKA TRAVEL ADVENTURES	12000			8000							4000 transport/guided
ALASKA WEDDINGS ON ICE	50									50	
DOLPHIN TOURS LLC	0										
FIRST STUDENT	350										350 transport
GASTINEAU GUIDING COMPANY	40382	200	2000			3000	18000	10182	6000	1000	
GLACIER TAXI	0										
HARV & MARV	810	0				60				750	
JUNEAU TOURS	66098										66098 transport
KOOTZNOOWOGONE	N/A										
LAST CHANCE TOURS	0										
LIQUID ALASKA TOURS	5906	2344		3562							
M&M TOURS	39771										39771 transport
UNIVERSITY OF AK SOUTHEAST	220	75	75	14					28	28	
WORLD CYCLING TOURS (R. POPE)	3400				3400						
TOTAL AWARDED	229574	7069	5090	15672	3400	3060	18000	11016	6028	3060	157179
TOTAL SDs AVAILABLE IN THE PROSPECTUS	238732	7069	7299	15672	5416	3060	18360	11016	7299	3060	157179

Additional 370 days were included in the Visitor Center Unit allocation due to closing two small transport permits.

ATTACHMENT B - MAXIMUM Service Day Requests submitted in bid packages - 2015 MGRA Prospectus

BUSINESS NAME	WEST GLACIER UNIT GENERAL FS LANDS (rock pen., shoreline, etc.)	WEST GLACIER TRL	TOLCH ROCK	MENDY LAKE	VISITOR CENTER UNIT	POWERLINE	STEEP CREEK	MORaine ECOLOGY	TRAIL OF TIME	EAST GLACIER	NUGGET FALLS	MAXIMUM TOTAL REQUEST
12TH STREET TAXI & TOURS (D. HARRIS)					2610							2610
ABOVE & BEYOND ALASKA LLC	4450	1800		5905	250							12405
ADMIRALTY EXCURSIONS					10000				5000		3000	18000
ADVENTURE FLOW		1215							1033		1033	3281
ALASKA COACH TOURS					90000							90000
ALASKA TRAVEL ADVENTURES				14000	15000							29000
ALASKA WEDDINGS ON ICE											50	50
DOLPHIN TOURS LLC					33000							33000
FIRST STUDENT					500							500
GASTINEAU GUIDING COMPANY	200	2000					3000	18000	11000	6000	1000	41200
GLACIER TAXI					7000							7000
HARV & MARV	2500				25000		1000				750	29250
JUNEAU TOURS					125000							125000
KOCHINOWSKI INC					405000							405000
LAST CHANCE TOURS					35000							35000
LIQUID ALASKA TOURS	5936			11872	30000							47808
M&M TOURS					57000							57000
UNIVERSITY OF AK SOUTHEAST	75	75		28						28	28	234
WORLD CYCLING TOURS (R. POPE)						3400						3400
MAXIMUM DAYS REQUESTED IN BID PACKAGES												
	13161	5090	0	31805	535360	3400	4000	18000	17033	6028	5861	639738
TOTAL SDs AVAILABLE IN THE PROSPECTUS	7069	7299	3672	15672	156809	5416	3060	18360	11016	7299	3060	238732

ATTACHMENT C - MINIMUM Service Day Requests submitted in bid packages - 2015 MGRA Prospectus

BUSINESS NAME	WEST GLACIER UNIT GENERAL FS LANDS (rock pen., shoreline, etc.)	WEST GLACIER TRL	TOLCH ROCK	MENDY LAKE	VISITOR CENTER UNIT	POWERLINE	STEEP CREEK	MORaine ECOLOGY	TRAIL OF TIME	EAST GLACIER	NUGGET FALLS	MINIMUM TOTAL REQUEST
12TH STREET TAXI & TOURS (D. HARRIS)					1840							1840
ABOVE & BEYOND ALASKA LLC	3025	1100		3860	100							8085
ADMIRALTY EXCURSIONS					5000				3000		1000	9000
ADVENTURE FLOW		915							834		834	2583
ALASKA COACH TOURS					60000							60000
ALASKA TRAVEL ADVENTURES				8000	7000							15000
ALASKA WEDDINGS ON ICE											50	50
DOLPHIN TOURS LLC					33000							33000
FIRST STUDENT					350							350
GASTINEAU GUIDING COMPANY	50	1800				1500	16600		11000	6000	300	37250
GLACIER TAXI					5000							5000
HARV & MARV	500				17500		750				250	19000
JUNEAU TOURS					69000							69000
KOOTZNOOWOOGINE					52500							52500
LAST CHANCE TOURS					26750							26750
LIQUID ALASKA TOURS	3562			3562	15000							22124
M&M TOURS					50200							50200
UNIVERSITY OF AK SOUTHEAST	25	25		14						14	14	92
WORLD CYCLING TOURS (R. POPE)						3000						3000
MINIMUM DAYS REQUESTED IN BID PACKAGES												
TOTAL SDs AVAILABLE IN THE PROSPECTUS												
	7162	3840	0	15436	343240	3000	2250	16600	14834	6014	2448	414824
	7069	7299	3672	15672	156809	5416	3060	18360	11016	7299	3060	238732